

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

ACDA-10 SCCT-01 AGR-10 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

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P 211845Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 996

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN PRIORITY

UNCLAS HERMOSILLO 129

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MX

SUBJECT: AGITATORS PREVENT WHEAT HARVEST IN SOUTHERN
SONORA

REF: HERMOSILLO 128

1. NOTWITHSTANDING CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE OR THREAT OF VIOLENCE BY BOTH LANDOWNERS AND CAMPESINOS AS MEANS TO ACHIEVE LAND REFORM WHEN PRESIDENT, FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES ADDRESSED CAMPESINO GATHERING IN CIUDAD OBREGON ON APRIL 19, AGITATORS IN SOUTHERN SONORA FORCIBLY PREVENTED FARMERS FROM HARVESTING WHEAT CROP APRIL 20 ON MORE THAN 300 HECTARES. APRIL 21 SONORA PRESS REPORTS THAT GROUPS OF AGITATORS, REPORTEDLY ARMED, AND TRAVELLING IN VEHICLES LICENSED IN SINALOA, FORCED FARM WORKERS IN MAYO VALLEY SOUTH OF CITY OF NAVOJOA TO SUSPEND WHEAT HARVEST. THE 300 HECTARES AFFECTED ARE PARTS OF SIX DIFFERENT PRIVATE FARMS. ADDITIONALLY, SQUATTERS WHO HAVE OCCUPIED A PRIVATE PROPERTY AT CAPETAMAYA, A FEW MILES SOUTH OF NAVOJOA ADJACENT TO NATIONAL HIGHWAY 15, SINCE DECEMBER 1975, AND WHO RECENTLY PERMITTED PROPERTY OWNER TO HARVEST PART OF WHEAT CROP ON THIS
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LAND, ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE NOW DETERMINED TO "BURN CROP

IN THE FIELD IF THEIR PETITIONS WERE NOT ACCEPTED".

2. REACTING ENERGETICALLY TO THE THREATS, SONORA GOVERNOR CARRILLO MARCOR CALLED THESE ACTS "CRIMINAL" AND AN ATTACK ON THE NATION. HE ORDERED THE MAYOR OF NAVOJOA TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PERMIT THE HARVEST TO CONTINUE, AND INSTRUCTED THE ARMY TO PROVIDE WHATEVER SUPPORT WAS REQUIRED. THE CAPETAMAYA LAND INVASION CASE IS PARTICULARLY VEXING TO THE AUTHORITIES BECAUSE THE ARMED SQUATTERS INVOLVED HAVE ALREADY HAD THEIR CLAIMS REJECTED, EVEN BY THE FEDERAL SUPREME COURT, YET THEY PERSIST IN DEMANDING THAT THESE PRIVATE LANDS BE TURNED OVER TO THEM. AT THE GOVERNOR'S REQUEST, AGRARIAN REFORM SECRETARY FELIX BARRA PROCEEDED TO NAVOJOA TO TALK TO THE "AGITATORS" AND WHEN HE PROMISED THAT THEIR CASE WOULD BE DEFINITELY RESOLVED BY NEXT FRIDAY THEY PERMITTED HARVESTING ON THE ADJACENT SIX FARMS TO RESUME.

3. OTHER REPORT INDICATE THAT ACTING ON PRESIDENTIAL ORDERS, THE SONORA STAFF OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM SECRETARIAT WHICH HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO CIUDAD OBREGON AND IS ASSISTED BY NUMEROUS OFFICIALS FROM MEXICO CITY INCLUDING THE SECRETARY, IS WORKING VIRTUALLY AROUND THE CLOCK. IT REPORTEDLY EXPECTS TO "RESOLVE" THE NUMEROUS PENDING CASES OF CAMPESINO DEMANDS FOR LAND IN THE YAQUI VALLEY BY THE END OF THIS WEEK. MEANWHILE, THE SMALL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION HAS REITERATED ITS DEMANDS THAT THE ALLEGED LATIFUNDISTS BE MADE KNOWN AND THEIR LANDS TAKEN FROM THEM, ASSERTING THAT IT DOES NOT AND NEVER HAS "PROTECTED" THEM.

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